

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, June 27, 1996

Published Since 1877

## "Fear God, honor the king" — Observe Christian Citizenship Sunday, June 30

By James A. Smith

As our nation looks forward to another national election this fall when candidates will stand for

positions from the school board to the White House, we as believers ought to consider how God would

have us exercise our citizenship rights and responsibilities. Our Father is concerned about all aspects of our lives and his Word provides us with principles which give us direction, including the manner in which we vote.

Peter provides a succinct model when he proclaims, "Fear God. Honor the king" (1 Peter 2:17). Jesus taught the same principle in the Gospels when he instructed His disciples to "render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's."

Our nation was founded on the revolutionary idea: "We the people..." This concept is expressed in the republican form of government where citizens elect their leaders to represent the people. Ultimately, then, the people are the "king" under our democratic process. The way Christians "honor the king" in America is to be educated, engaged and participating citizens. In other words, first we must vote.

However, as followers of Christ we exercise our citizenship in light of our fear of God. Peter provides instruction on how we are to fear God. "Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God" (1 Peter 2:16). Our right to vote comes with the Christian responsibility to use this right in a manner which will please and honor God.

Our "Baptist Faith and Mes-

sage" proclaims this principle as well: "Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth and brotherly love" (Article XV "The Christian and the Social Order").

We should not cast a ballot which is based on our personal preferences such as political affiliation, economic status, regional

neglect the divine commands, and elect bad men to make and administer the laws."

What can you do to be a good citizen in this election year?

- Pray that our government will affirm biblical morality in our laws and that righteousness will once again characterize our nation.

- Register and vote. The Bible teaches that Christians should be the best citizens. And yet, Christians participate at about the same dismal level of unbelievers.

- Seek permission from your pastor to lead a church-wide voter registration effort. A nonpartisan voter registration drive does not jeopardize a church's tax-exempt status.

- Educate yourself and your entire church family about the critical issues which are at stake in the election and where the candidates stand on those issues. Survey all the candidates for office as to their positions and provide that information to your church.

- Start a Christian Life Committee as a means of educating the church throughout the entire year about moral and religious liberty issues.

(The Christian Life Commission has resources available to help churches in all of these activities.)

**Smith is former director of government relations, SBC Christian Life Commission, Washington, D.C.**

**"Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a covering for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, FEAR GOD, HONOR THE KING."  
— 1 Peter 2:16, 17 (NIV)**

pride, or denominational loyalty. We should consider voting to be a serious, and properly understood, spiritual matter. It should be bathed in prayer and careful reflection on how our vote can be used to secure a more righteous society.

Noah Webster offered a warning about this matter, "If a republican government fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, it must be because the citizens

"Fear God, Honour the king."

(1 Peter 2:17)



Observe Christian Citizenship Sunday  
June 30, 1996

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission  
of the Southern Baptist Convention

### Video pastor

The electronic pulpit committee has arrived. Jim Splawn, head of the recent pastor search for First Church, Huntsville, Ala., said he and the search committee watched hours of videotaped sermons before interviewing an applicant. "It gave you a pretty quick reference point for the style of the church service. It gave you an idea of the pastor's delivery style, and it gave you an idea of the size of the congregation," he said. However, not all churches are in favor using the video revolution in such a manner. "In fact, we had one candidate from an older congregation who told us, 'A video might cause some problems. Please don't,'" said Forrest Streeter, chairman of the pastor search committee at Trinity Church in Madison, Ala. "What you were seeking years ago was somebody who could preach well and be sort of elevated above the congregation. Today, in a lot of the churches, the congregation wants somebody who's a leader but also a warm person who sits down and chats. It was an encouragement to see competent, faithful work being led by so many pastors," Street said.

### Great starts

Growth and faithfulness are occurring among Baptists in many of the world's trouble spots, according to a report from the Baptist World Alliance (BWA). "Like the indestructible cedars of Lebanon, we are rising out of the ashes of our 16-year civil war. We believe God has a role for Lebanon and its ministry in this predominantly non-Christian east," said Mona Khauli, BWA vice-president and member of Ras Beirut Church in Beirut, Lebanon. Samuel Fadeji, president of the All African Fellowship in predominantly Islamic Nigeria, said that while Christians continue to be persecuted in his country, "not one preacher has been arrested for preaching anything in his pulpit for the government." Church membership has tripled over the past five years in the former Soviet republic of Georgia, and harassment from Bulgarian authorities has not dampened the spirits of Baptists in that formerly communist country, according to Karl-Heinz Walter, BWA regional secretary for Europe. The Southern Baptist Convention is an active member of the Baptist World Alliance.

### Looking Back...

#### 10 years ago

Jerry E. Oswalt, a Starkville native serving as director of missions for Baldwin Association in Silverhill, Ala., is elected associate professor of preaching at New Orleans Seminary. He holds both masters and doctoral degrees from the seminary.

#### 20 years ago

Four Mississippi Baptists — John Alexander, Jimmy Magee, James Yates, and Richard Brogan — will travel to Rhodesia to assist each Baptist church in that African nation in developing a stewardship emphasis program.

#### 50 years ago

Victor Kaneubbe, Choctaw Indian of Oklahoma City and a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, arrives in Mississippi to help Baptists with their work among the state's growing Choctaw Indian ministries.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## Welcome, Mr. Editor

It is with pride and pleasure that I recommend William H. "Dusty" Perkins Jr. as **The Baptist Record's** new editor. He is a trained and competent journalist and has had a distinguished career in this field.

First, he is a committed Christian. He is a Sunday School teacher and has been faithful in maintaining a Christ-like spirit. He knows the meaning of "church," and understands the polity and politics of various conventions, agencies, and boards.

Dusty is also a "pure" journalist. In the press room, that is the

terminology used to denote one who has not come through the clergyhood. His writing is lucid and holds the interest of his readers. He is fair in his reporting, thorough in his research, and persistent in his search for truth.

He is a family man. He understands the value of his wife and children, and seeks to give them quality time. He has written several articles — published in **The Baptist Record** — upholding family values.

Moreover, Dusty is a Mississippian. He understands our people and our place in history.

His appreciation for our history will aid him in understanding our future. He knows our governmental system, having worked four years in the press office of former Governor William Winter.

We expect a greater **Baptist Record** under his stewardship. From the ancient editors like J.B. Gambrell, P.I. Lipsey, A.L. Goodrich, Joe Odle, and others, I suspect I can hear a whispered, "Amen."

Welcome, Mr. Editor, to this desk, and may the Lord continue his blessings on you.

## Guest Opinion...

## SBC's Disney boycott puts most Baptists on horns of a dilemma

By R.K. Houston

"Baptists to boycott Disney" was the "Spotlight" feature's lead in the June 13, 1996, issue of the (Jackson) **Clarion-Ledger**.

It seems that we Baptists are heaven-bent on shooting ourselves in the foot — maybe both feet. Has our Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) really taken an official position — a really public position — without input from the churches that make up the organization?

If so, I liken our delegates to our government's elected officials — they may be great and Christian human beings individually, but put them together in a public meeting, and no one can predict the result. I protest.

Others more eloquent than me will write letters to the editor questioning the sense of boycotting the movie studio that produces more "G"-rated movies than any other, that brings to the screen practically all of the cartoon movies for children, and that provides the one channel — network or cable — that we need never hide from our children.

The SBC has created a classic oxymoron, providing, yet again, an opportunity for the rest of the Christian world to point and laugh at Southern Baptists.

There is, however, a serious and sinister side to this latest debacle. Those of us who take our Christianity seriously find ourselves seated uncomfortably upon the piercing horns of a dilemma, uninvitedly and unnecessarily.

Either, on the one hand, we must disavow the action of the

SBC as an ill-conceived, unstudied, irresponsible, *ultra vires* act of an otherwise usually responsible organization run amok; or, on the other hand, we must affirm the resolution as a legitimate and proper action of that body.

If we affirm the action, we find ourselves on the horns of a different dilemma, sharper and more serious this time: We must either boycott Disney, or we will announce to our children and to the world at large that we are unabashed hypocrites — bona fide, come-out-of-the-closet, card-carrying hypocrites, unashamed of our duplicity.

My lovely wife Alice likens this situation to the Catholics' position on birth control.

Such hypocrisy is completely unacceptable. Therefore, I revert to the first dilemma, and I resent being pitched upon those points.

However, having been forced by the SBC into the uncomfortable position of affirming a resolution that leaves millions of Southern Baptists in the impossible position of depriving their children of Disney entertainment — entertainment that meets, and often exceeds, our mores of acceptable family standards. Or, in the alternative, we are standing wrongfully accused of supporting homosexual relationships.

I reluctantly opt for the latter. The harm resulting from the former renders that alternative unacceptable.

I resent the SBC's — my SBC's — placing our members in such a predicament. I cannot conceive of anyone who enjoys

family entertainment seriously considering boycotting Disney.

We can't spend all day and night, every day and night, in our churches. Music, art, literature, fiction, and non-fiction, movies, television — all these forms of secular entertainment can be wholesome.

Further, it is neither reasonable nor in our best interest for Christian folks to surrender the entertainment industry to those who prefer "R"-rated, full-frontal, bare-bottom, bathroom-language entertainment.

The SBC's action was unnecessary, unreasonable, and ill-advised. Christ taught us to live in this world — not separate ourselves from it. Contrary to misguided opinion, our Christian duty is not to stomp out sin, but to live Christian lives in a sometimes un-Christian environment.

We can't stomp out sin. It's too big. There is no record of Christ's ever having participated in a boycott of a single house of ill repute, or gambling den (notice that our messengers didn't resolve that we boycott the "gaming" industry), or first-century liquor establishment.

Such was not Christ's nature, nor should it be ours. To the contrary, we all remember how Christ reacted when given the opportunity to castigate the woman caught in adultery.

I wish I were more like him. I wish our SBC messengers were, too.

Houston is a Bay Springs attorney and member of Bay Springs Church.

"WELL, THE PASTOR! WE WERE JUST SAYING NO ONE WOULD BE DUMB ENOUGH TO GET OUT ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS!"



## THE FRAGMENTS

## Farewell

Once I was told that an editor has the same function as a piece of parsley on top of a baked fish. Even so, I am firmly convinced that the state Baptist newspaper is essential to keeping our people informed.

Some things I have learned:  
• Baptists have a right to know;  
• Don't take yourself too seriously;  
• There are few original

thoughts;

• Reason doesn't do well in the same ring with emotion;

• And, to quote a great politician: "Never insult an alligator until you have crossed the river."

Louisa May Alcott once said, "Life is my college; I want to graduate with honors."

Thanks again for the privilege of being your editor. — GH

## An open letter to Bailey Smith

(Smith is a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and is a vocational evangelist. He spoke at the Pastor's Conference in New Orleans June 10. In his speech, he accused state Baptist paper editors of standing in the way of revival. He also stated, "I'm tired of non-soul-winning editors who go to non-soul-winning churches who have not seen a revival in 50 years telling us what's wrong with ours.")

Dear Bailey:

This is not my usual way of letter-writing, but since your remarks were publicly made, they necessitate an open reply. It was sad to see you use an evangelism platform to attack editors who are constantly doing and publicizing evangelism. I've been preaching an infallible, inerrant, God-breathed Bible since 1947. For 10 years I was the Evangelism Director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, teaching and leading hundreds of Christian Witness Training (CWT) and Lay Evangelism schools. As editor, I am vitally concerned about evangelism and church growth.

Also, you owe an apology to Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton, where I am a member. This church has actively been involved for years in CWT or Evangelism Explosion, and ranks among our state's leaders in numbers of baptisms every year. You insulted the godly pastors and lay people in that great church.

Our task as editors is to keep our people informed. We are not too happy about secret meetings, meetings closed to the press, the firing of seminary presidents, and the stacking of committees. You may support this kind of politicking, but don't expect editors to remain silent.

Sincerely,

*Guy Henderson*

## The Baptist Record

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# Baptist Record adds White; Brady headed to Co-Lin BSU

Carl M. White, pastor of Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale, has been selected as the new associate editor of **The Baptist Record**, while Bruce H. Brady Jr., minister of youth/activities at First Church, Biloxi, has been chosen to be Baptist Student Union (BSU) director at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Gallman.

White, 40, will replace William H. "Dusty" Perkins Jr., who becomes the 11th editor of the state's Baptist newsjournal upon the June 30 retirement of W. Guy Henderson.

In addition to pastoring Clarks-

dale Church (1991-96), White pastored Ingomar Church, New Albany (1984-91), and First Church, Sumner (1981-84).

He served as volunteer chaplain at North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo (1986-89); minister of music and youth at Rolling Fields Church in Jefferson, Ind. (1978-81); and director of youth activities and youth choir at University Church, Hattiesburg (1975-78).

He has been heavily involved in associational activities in the counties in which he has pastored, and has served on a number of state

convention committees and boards. White is in his second term as a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and currently serves on both the state Cooperative Program Promotion Committee and **The Baptist Record** Advisory Committee.

He and his wife, the former Frances Beville of New Albany, have been married nearly 19 years. They have three children: David, 15; Dan, 13; and Katie, 12.

Brady, 34, will replace Roy Smith, who recently retired after 27 years as Co-Lin BSU director.

Brady is a Brookhaven native

who has served at First Church, Biloxi, since 1991.

Prior to that, he was minister of youth/activities at First Church, Summit (1988-91); junior high Sunday School Director and youth intern at Southcliff Church, Ft. Worth (1986-87); associate minister of youth at First Church, Madison (1983-84); and minister of youth at Lakeshore Church, Jackson (1981-82).

Brady, who advocates strong support for the Cooperative Program, has been involved in a number of other youth ministry programs during his ministry, including youth assist team; youth workshops; and a term as president of the Baptist Youth Ministers Fellowship in 1994.

He and his wife, the former Beth Barnes, have two children, ages 10 and 6.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

## The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, June 27, 1996

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### Garaywa lodge to expand appeal for adult meetings

By William H. Perkins Jr.

A special committee of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) retained architect Larry Sones of Brandon on June 19 and directed him to conduct a study on the feasibility of a new adult lodge facility at Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

Dell Scoper of Laurel, who is heading the Camp Garaywa Building Committee, said Mississippi Baptists' GA camp has come under "big demand" in recent years as a prime location for adult workshops, seminars, and other meetings.

"The current layout hinders adult meetings. The recommendation of the Camp Garaywa long-range planning committee was that

a new lodge facility for adults was needed," Scoper explained.

That recommendation was backed up by a survey mailed to 3,500 pastors, associational directors of missions and WMU directors, and many others involved in the work and ministry of Camp Garaywa, she said.

Sones' resume includes a number of Baptist architectural projects, including:

- First Church, Jackson.
- First Church, Clinton.
- First Church, Brandon.
- Parkway Church, Clinton.
- Central Hills Retreat, Kosciusko.

Scoper said July 12 was the date set for completing the feasi-

bility study, as the committee moves toward a scheduled March 1997 groundbreaking ceremony — timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the opening of Camp Garaywa.

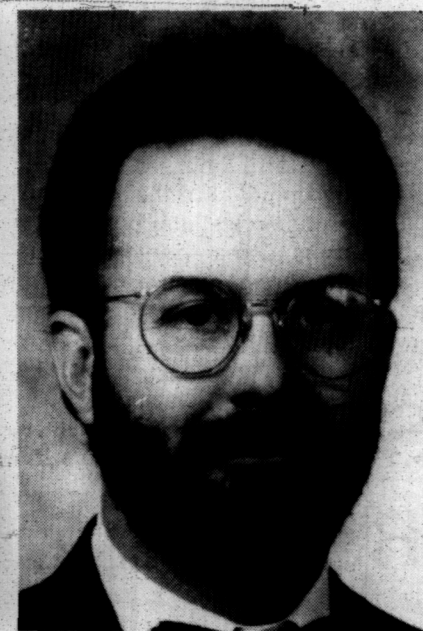
A fundraising campaign is planned, Scoper pointed out, and groups and individuals will have the opportunity to endow a room in the lodge.

"This is going to be a big plus for Mississippi Baptists and for Camp Garaywa," she said.

For more information on the lodge project, contact WMU at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



White



Brady

### Rebuilding fund OK'd by exec. committee; new members added

The executive committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) approved a resolution June 19 deploring the recent rash of church burnings and establishing a fund to assist those churches in rebuilding.

The strongly-worded resolution deplores any action that would deliberately destroy a house of worship and expresses "deep regret" over the losses incurred by churches in Mississippi and the U.S.

MBCB Executive Director-Treasurer Bill Causey, designated to speak on behalf of the executive committee, said, "We are determined that hatred and violence will not claim the day."

Gifts to the rebuilding fund can be sent to the Mississippi Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Be sure to designate "Church Rebuilding Fund" on the check.

In addition, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has established a fund for the burned churches that now totals more than \$250,000.

Gifts to that fund can be sent to the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce Street, Nashville, TN 37203. Be sure to designate "Arson Fund" on the check.

The executive committee also directed the MBCB Brotherhood Department to assist construction teams in scheduling work days to help rebuild the damaged churches.

A trio of new MBCB members were introduced during the June 19 meeting to replace members who have moved or left the state.


The new board members are Ralph Cain of Mathiston, Roger Jones of Anguilla, and Joseph Knight of Kosciusko.

A new computer system was approved for Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian, as was the purchase of computer equipment and related software for Baptist Building departments. Total allocation for the purchases was \$55,000.




### Garaywa committee

Members of the Camp Garaywa Building Committee include (back row, from left) Joyce Beasley, Tupelo; vice-chairwoman Lydia Jones, Clinton; Pam Booth, Amory; Martha Ellen Marler, Harpersville; Jerry Kemp, Columbia; Bobbie Foster, Prentiss; Joan Tyler, Collins; (front row, from left) Mississippi WMU Executive Director Marjean Patterson, Clinton; recording secretary Sue Tatum, Yazoo City; Sharon Neff, Arcola; Delores Cook, Vancleave; project architect Larry Sones of Brandon; Mississippi WMU President Sandra Nash, Clinton; Peggy Huey, Hattiesburg; chairwoman Dell Scoper, Laurel. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



### Church Rebuilding Fund

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530



**Arson Fund**  
Southern Baptist Convention





## New DOM officers

NEW ORLEANS — The Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions elected its new officers during the June 9-10 meeting in New Orleans. The officers and where they service include (from left): Larry Rose, president, Tarrant Association in Fort Worth; Gary Hearon, host director, Dallas Association; John E. Dent Sr., treasurer, retired from South Carolina; Ed Gilman, second vice president, Suncoast Association in Largo, Fla.; Ernest K. Sadler, secretary, Jackson Association in Pascagoula; David Dean, first vice president, Metropolitan New York Association; and Gerald Jeffries, editor of "DOM Viewpoint," Dixon Association in Bland, Mo. (BP photo by Orville Scott)

## BR observes special deadlines for July 4

There will be no Baptist Record published on Thursday, July 4. Publication will resume on July 11.

News items to appear in the July 11 issue should arrive in The Baptist Record office no later than noon on Wednesday, July 3.

Churches which utilize the "special page" feature on page 1 of The Baptist Record should ensure those items arrive in the Jackson offices of Cain Lithographers by noon on Tuesday, July 9.

Because of the newspaper's agreement with the United States Postal Service, The Baptist Record publishes only 50 issues a year, taking hiatus the weeks of July 4 and Christmas.

## Gulfshore will host July church media library workers' conference

Church Media Library (CML) Week will be held at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly on July 25-27 for CML workers across the state.

This week coincides with the II Growing Churches for Tomorrow Conference.

This year's conference will feature workshops led by Eva Nell Hunter and David Tiller.

Hunter is special worker with the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. The Decatur, Ala., resident will lead the following workshops: CML Introduction to Print Media Processing, CML Audiovisual Processing, and CML Subject Headings.

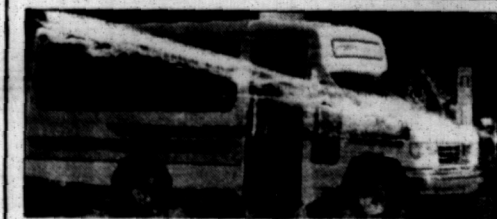
Hunter has served as director of church media library at Central Church, Decatur, and led conferences at Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Centers, and at the annual Church Media Library National Conferences.

Tiller will lead the following conferences: Media Skills Development and Church Media Library Promotion Planning. Tiller is retail training coordinator in the Retail Marketing Services Department at the Baptist Sunday School Board. Prior to assuming his present position, he was training specialist in the Human Resources Department.

Before coming to the Baptist Sunday School Board he was minister of education, youth, and children at West Asheville (N.C.) Church. All state CML workers are urged to make immediate reservations with Gulfshore Assembly by calling (601) 452-7261. This year for the first time they may use

Mastercard and VISA for reservations and payments.

For more information call Farrell Blankenship, director of Broadcast Services, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



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# USA Today reports church's nod of SBC stance on Disney

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A 2,000-member congregation has been carried onto the pages of USA Today via the Southern Baptist Convention's threatened boycott of the Walt Disney Company.

"If... the values of the leaders of Disney trickle down through the products and the films... it's eventually going to have the hearts" and minds of the children, Carter Gates, a member of Grove Avenue Church, Richmond, Va., was quoted as saying in a USA Today article June 19, "Southern Baptists aim at Disney's liberalism," on the front of the "Life" section.

Gates tells the national paper he is concerned that issues like "homosexual marriages and all those things" will become part of the message Disney conveys to America's youth.

Kids "love Mickey Mouse," Gates is quoted as saying. "They love Donald Duck. They love all the Disney products."

However, he asks, "How far before you'll be able to... sell the youth on being sensitive and open and tolerant of all different lifestyles and therefore really change the way America is through the hearts and minds of the youth?"

The USA Today article, by Katy Kelly, begins by recounting that Gates' 11-year-old daughter, Paige, "would love to visit Disney World. Until last Wednesday, her chances were pretty good." That day, June 12, the Southern

Baptist Convention adopted a resolution voicing concern over Disney's moral drift and threatening a boycott.

Now, Kelly writes, the Gateses have "changed their minds" (about vacationing at Disney World), reflecting a view expressed in the SBC resolution that "in recent years, the Disney Company has given the appearance that the promotion of homosexuality is more important than its historic commitment to traditional family values."

The USA Today article notes Grove Avenue's pastor, Ron Boswell, a former missionary with the Foreign Mission Board, planned to voice support for the boycott in his sermon June 23, which also is watched by 10,000-15,000 people on TV.

Writes Kelly: "This Sunday, Boswell will tell his flock about the (SBC) resolution. And he'll tell them that he, a 61-year-old man who loves Winnie the Pooh, and doting grandfather of eight, is walking away.... He'll tell them he's doing this because he thinks it's the moral thing to do...."

The USA Today article notes, "Some Southern Baptist churches

aren't buying the idea of a boycott," quoting Jim Slatton, pastor of Richmond's River Road Church: "Our congregation will scarcely take notice of this. Those that are aware of it will find it ludicrous.... In my opinion a lot of Baptists find this whole gesture embarrassing. It's bemusing but it's not going to have any impact."

The main USA Today article referenced a number of the Disney-related concerns of the SBC and of members of Grove Avenue Church, including:

— the movie "Priest," which the SBC contended "disparages Christian values," produced by the Disney subsidiary Miramax, which also produced the violent film "Pulp Fiction."

— Disney's "Pocahontas," which failed to reflect that the real Pocahontas was a Christian.

— the publishing of a teen book, *Growing Up Gay: From Left Out to Coming Out* by the Disney subsidiary Hyperion.

— the provision of health insurance benefits to live-in partners of homosexual employees but not unmarried partners of heterosexual employees.

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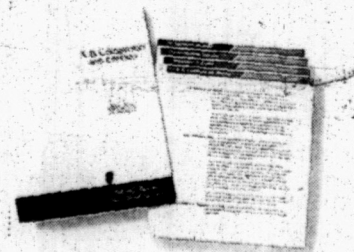
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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 27, 1996

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

## BASIC/ADVANCED SECRETARY CERTIFICATION

AT GARAYWA, AUGUST 20-22

The Basic and Advanced Secretary Certification Seminars were designed to create awareness of the scope of responsibility and of the need to apply professional standards in the ministry of the church and denominational secretary, and to offer in-depth experiential treatment of specific areas of office administration and ministry.

In the Basic Seminars you will discover who we are as Southern Baptists. You will also identify your unique ministry role and explore personal issues that impact your work. Learn how to take charge of your record keeping, brush up on office communication skills, and learn to coordinate work flow and streamline office tasks.



SANDY SIGMON

The Advance Seminar this year will be *Applying Spiritual Gifts in Ministry* (one continuous study, will be credited as two modules):



BETTY HUGHES

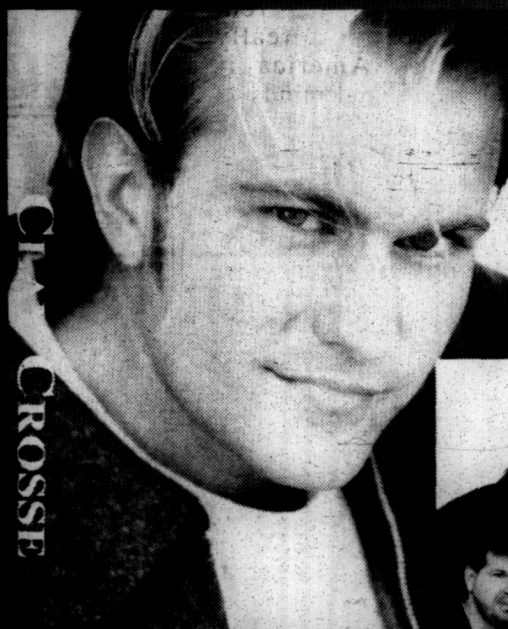
Do you know that God loves you so much He has given you a special gift? Do you know what that gift is? Are you applying that gift to your ministry in the office? *Applying Spiritual Gifts in Ministry* will help you understand the spiritual gifts, identify your own spiritual giftedness, and discover how you can apply your gifts through your office and personal ministry. This study could change your life and your perspective on ministry!

Beautiful Camp Garaywa in Clinton is the setting for your time of refreshing and study. There are 49 beds in cabins with **INSIDE BATH FACILITIES** available on a first registered, first assigned basis! Make your plans early to be assigned to one of these spaces. Other cabins utilize separate bath houses.

For more information or to register for this event, contact **Ann Martin** at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 968-3800, extension 3905.

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST YOUTH MEET 96

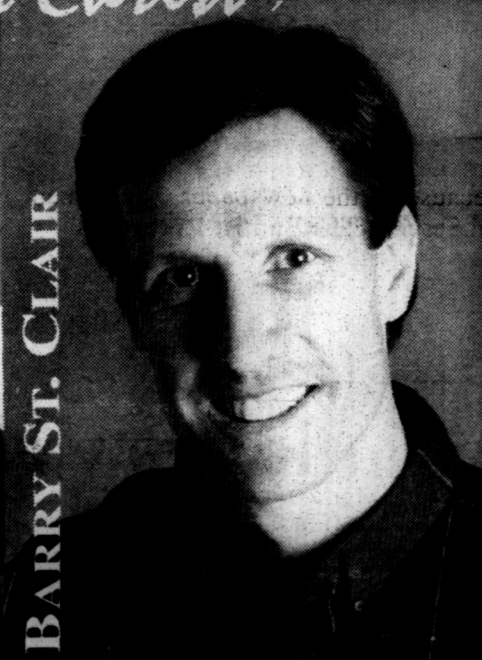
Challenging Today's  
Youth for Christ



CLAY CROSSE



KINDRED HEART



BARRY ST. CLAIR

Same Program --  
choose one to attend

July 26, 1996 • 7 p.m.

July 27, 1996 • 10 a.m.

MISSISSIPPI  
FAIRGROUNDS  
COLISEUM

### PROGRAM

Featured Speaker -- BARRY ST. CLAIR,  
Reach-Out Ministries, Atlanta  
Guest Vocal Artist -- CLAY CROSSE,  
Christian Recording Artist, Nashville  
Worship Leaders -- KINDRED HEART,  
Horizon Community Church, Jackson

A LOVE OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED  
(a gift of \$1.00 per person is suggested)

Interpretation for the deaf will be provided.

### Guidelines

- Encourage your youth to bring their unsaved and inactive friends.
- Encourage each person to bring a Bible.
- Appropriate dress is requested.
- No alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or illegal drugs will be permitted.
- No radios or taping equipment will be permitted.

A ministry of your Cooperative Program  
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST  
CONVENTION BOARD  
Bill Causey, Executive Director, Jackson  
Eugene Dobbs, Executive Assistant  
Mar Buckles, YOUTH NIGHT Coordinator  
Chairman

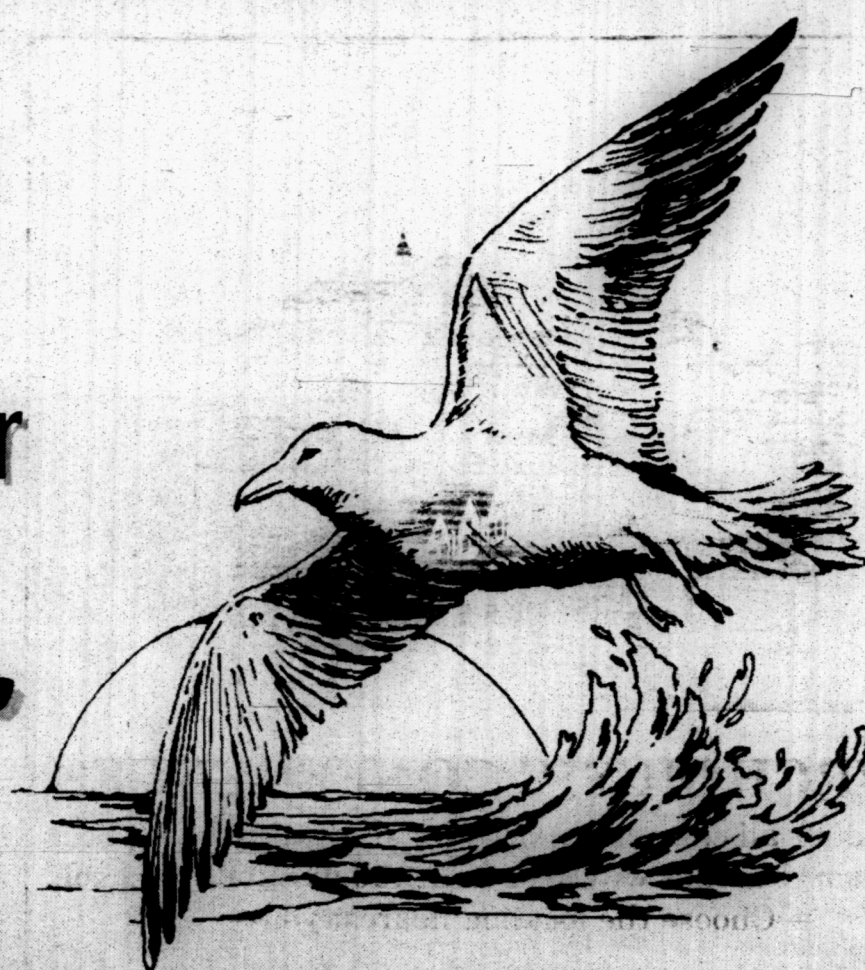
Helping to Bring Missions and the  
World to Jesus



1996

# Growing Churches For *Tomorrow...*

it just keeps growing and growing  
and growing...



**July 18-20 ■ July 25-27 ■ August 1-3**



**GENE MIMS, BSSB**  
Preacher  
July 18-20

**NEW**

## MUSIC WORSHIP LEADERS

**J. M. WOOD, FBC, BRANDON**  
July 18-20

**JIMMY LITTLE, FBC, LAUREL**  
July 25-27

**ALLEN HARRIS, NORTH OXFORD BC**  
August 1-3



**RICKEY BLYTHE,**  
**FBC, FLORA**  
Preacher  
July 25-27  
August 1-3

To register for any of these conference dates,  
contact Frank Simmons at Gulfshore Baptist  
Assembly, (601) 452-7261.

For more detailed conference information,  
contact the Sunday School Department,  
MBCB, at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at  
968-3800.

Growing Churches for *Tomorrow* is a conference for all church staff and leadership personnel. Consider bringing your entire church faculty to Gulfshore where in **ONE** location during **ONE** conference, **EVERYBODY** receives the best training available to them.

Pastors; music, education, youth, single adult and senior adult faculty, which are involved in Sunday School, Discipleship, WMU and other capacities, will be trained.

Each of the three dates have identical schedules with Church Media Library training during the July 25-27 conference and Black Church Work during the August 1-3 conference.

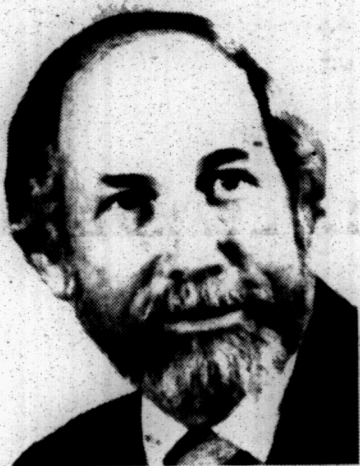


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—Choose the location nearest you—



**Elmo Mercer**  
Noted composer and  
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Nashville, Tenn.

### Area 5

**Center Terrace Baptist Church**  
Canton

Thursday, July 25, 6:30 - 9 p.m.  
Friday, July 26, 9 a.m. - noon

**Grace Baptist Church**  
Vicksburg

Friday, July 26, 6:30 - 9 p.m.  
Saturday, July 27, 9 a.m. - noon

### Area 2

**Holly Baptist Church**  
Corinth

Thursday, Aug. 1,  
6:00-9:30 p.m.

**First Baptist Church**  
Guntown

Friday, Aug. 2, 6:30 - 9 p.m.  
Saturday, Aug. 3, 9 a.m. - noon

### Area 6

**Sunrise Baptist Church**  
Carthage

Thursday, Aug. 8,  
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.  
Friday, Aug. 9, 9 a.m. - noon

**Louin Baptist Church**  
Louin

Friday, Aug. 9, 6:30 - 9 p.m.  
Saturday, Aug. 10, 9 a.m. - noon

For more information about the Church Music Conferences, contact the Church Music Dept. of the MBCB at 968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651.

## LEGACY BUILDERS RETREAT MEN'S MINISTRY

Baptist Men in Mississippi have a heartbeat for missions. Each year thousands of men demonstrate this commitment through World Changers projects, volunteer mission projects that touch 42 state conventions and 27 foreign mission settings and Partnership Mission projects.

This increasing commitment to missions has fostered a new spiritual fervor among men. Churches are discovering Legacy Builders Retreats as a resource for developing the spiritual nature of men. As a result of this experience, men are determining to be Godly men in their homes, churches, communities, and workplace. Small groups of men are meeting in many churches reading books about the family and how they are to be spiritual leaders. Prayer and accountability groups are being formed to help men to be accountable for the commitments they are making.

If a church is interested in developing Legacy Builders, the Brotherhood Department has a number of men who are trained in leading Legacy Builders Retreats. Sidney Ellis is the coordinator for Legacy Builders Retreats. Please call him at 1-800-748-1651 for additional information or to schedule a retreat.

## What's New in Men's Ministries

Target group: Pastors, Directors of Missions, Ministers of Education, Brotherhood Directors, Men's Ministry Leader

### PRAYER BOOKLETS:

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- *Prayer for Your Husband* • *Prayer for the President*
- *Missions Today magazine* • *Legacy Builders retreats*
- *Mission Blueprints: (easy to use blueprints for pews, tables and chairs)*
- *Leading Men's Ministry* • *Retirement by Design With Missions in Mind*
- *Involving Southern Baptists in Disaster Relief*

Order all these items from the Baptist Book Store or Brotherhood Commission  
1-800-233-1123.

## Gulfshore Music Leadership Conference July 11 - 13, 1996

“Fill me with your music, Lord  
sing your song through me”

### CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP

#### WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Lloyd Mims, Dean, School of Music, SBTS, Louisville

#### KEYBOARD

Joseph Martin, Minister of Music, Composer/Arranger, Austin

Glenn Crothwait, Music Associate/Organist, FBC, Jackson

#### CHILDREN

Susan Messer, Coordinator & Director of the Apprentice Choir, Houston  
Children's Chorus, Houston

Tee Billingsley, Preschool & Children's Choir Specialist, Eagleville, Tenn.

Darrell Billingsley, Church Music Ministries, BSSB, Nashville

#### CONFERENCE PASTOR

John Temple, Pastor, FBC, Madison

To register for this conference, contact Frank Simmons at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, (601) 452-7261.

For more detailed conference information, contact the Church Music Department, MBCB, at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 968-3800.



## Annuity Board Requires Important Decisions

### ➤ URGENT! ⚡

Present investment funds will be closed and new funds opened January 1, 1997. Each retirement plan participant must make a decision as to which new fund or funds to choose. This is a major opportunity for greater financial security in retirement.

The decision-making process can be made easier by using a new educational tool, *LifePoints*. Meetings are scheduled throughout Mississippi to help plan participants select a new investment strategy. An Annuity Board representative will be there to demonstrate the use of *LifePoints* and answer questions.

The dates and locations are listed.

Reservations are required, so call your state annuity representative, **Robin Nichols at 1-800-748-1651.**



**ANNUITY BOARD**  
OF THE SOUTHERN  
BAPTIST CONVENTION

**HATTIESBURG**  
July 8

**MARION**  
July 9

**JACKSON**  
July 10

**BROOKHAVEN**  
July 15

**BILOXI**  
July 22

**STARKVILLE**  
August 19

**TUPELO**  
August 20

**SENATOBIA**  
August 21

## Handbell Leadership Seminar

**9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Daniel Memorial BC • Jackson**

**September 20, 1996**



**Clinician: David Weck**  
**Editor, Handbell Division**  
**Agape Music**  
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*Let's pray this day for...*

**June 28-July 18, 1996**

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SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

*"When we preach, we may bless a congregation of believers; but when we pray, our capacity to bless is without limit. ...Through prayer we can touch the ends of the earth."*

— F. J. Huegel

**28** Gambling Ministry Conference, 38th Avenue BC, Hattiesburg, sponsored by Mission Extension and Association Administration; Lad/Dad Weekend Camp, Central Hills, June 28-29, sponsored by Brotherhood; Jericho Week, Ridgecrest, June 29-July 5.

**29** The African-American Christian leaders as they launch a campaign to defend the Christian faith against the theology of the Nations of Islam and Louis Farrakhan, who are Muslims.

**30** Delores Taylor, a Mississippian, who begins serving as president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Wives Conference in June. Her husband is Johnny Lee Taylor, pastor of FBC, Gainesville, GA.

**1** GA Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa, July 1-5, sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union; the Family Enrichment Conference, July 1-5, Gulfshore Assembly, sponsored by Discipleship and Family Ministry Dept.

**2** Praise the Lord that after three years of difficulty all Foreign Mission Board missionaries in Zambia have been granted work permits by the government.

**3** The deaf ministry in a number of our churches and for the teachers who serve so faithfully in witnessing to the deaf.

**4** The observance of Independence Day. Pray that all Americans will give thanks to God for all the freedoms we have, especially the freedom of choosing our own religion.

**5** The State Prayer Coordinators' Prayer Conference led by Dr. T.W. Hunt, Ridgecrest Assembly, July 5-6.

**6** HeartSong '96, Gulfshore Assembly, July 6-10, sponsored by the Church Music Department; Home Missions Week at Ridgecrest, July 6-12.

**7** Pastors and other church staff who are terminated or who are overcome with emotional, relational and moral difficulties.

**8** The United States in its multi-cultural society. That plans will be developed for presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to more than 600 ethnic groups in the U.S.

**9** The overwhelming needs of teenagers in your church. Pray that they will have a deeper walk with the Lord.

**10** The remaining Vacation Bible Schools and Backyard Bible Clubs to be conducted this summer.

**11** The Church Music Leadership Conference, July 11-13, Gulfshore Assembly, sponsored by the Church Music Department.

**12** Lad/Dad Weekend Camp, Central Hills, July 12-13, sponsored by Brotherhood. GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa, July 12-13, sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union; for Church Growth/Sunday School Leadership Week I, July 13-19, Ridgecrest Conference Center.

**13** The various Christians ministries of witnessing at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta that the athletes may obtain more than gold medals.

**14** Our 40,159 Southern Baptist churches throughout the U.S. in their various ministries.

**15** Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp, Central Hills, July 15-19, sponsored by the Brotherhood; Super Summer, William Carey College, July 15-19, sponsored by Discipleship and Family Ministry; GA Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa, July 15-19, sponsored by WMU.

**16** The senior citizens living in retirement homes and nursing homes throughout Mississippi.

**17** All the high school graduates who are making plans to go to college this fall and for wisdom in working out the tuition costs, living arrangements, etc.

**18** Growing Churches For Tomorrow: A conference for training all church leaders, July 18-20, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

**HOUSE TOPS**



# Two professors leave seminary over conflict with Albert Mohler

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Two more professors are leaving Southern Seminary — one a moderate and the other a conservative added to the faculty to balance a so-called liberal drift at the seminary — over conflict with President Albert Mohler.

Frank Tupper, a faculty mem-

## Corrections

On page 1 of the June 20 edition, the final line of the "Looking Back — 20 years ago" entry was inadvertently omitted and should have read, "... president D.M. Nelson Sr.; and second vice-president Mrs. Carl Bates of Tupelo."

On page 5 of the June 20 edition, in the "Evangelists Profile" box, the name of the wife of Gary Bowlin was incorrectly listed due to a typographical error. Her name is Norma.

ber since 1973, apparently was forced to retire because of questions about a book he wrote that deals in part with his struggle to come to terms with the death of his wife Betty of breast cancer more than a decade ago.

Tupper's book became a flash point for conservatives who don't share his views of why God doesn't intervene to alleviate the suffering of innocent people.

"Now I am another casualty in the ongoing tragedy that has decimated Southern Seminary," Tupper lamented in a prepared statement.

The other professor, Carey Newman, was hired after Mohler

became president. But Newman has fallen out of favor, in part because he supports women in ministry.

"I was pushed out, forced out," Newman told the Louisville **Courier-Journal**. "This would never have been our choice. We moved here to stay, to build."

The resignations are the latest in a string of faculty departures from the seminary in Louisville, Ky. More than half the faculty has left since the fall of 1992, when former seminary President Roy Honeycutt announced his plans to retire.

But the departures of Tupper and Newman are viewed as significant because both have run afoul of Mohler even though they are seen as ideologically and theologically very different from each other.

## Vacation Bible Schools

**Woolmarket, Biloxi:** July 8-12; 8 a.m.-12 p.m. pre-registration  
**Fun Day, July 6, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.**

Thursday, June 27, 1996

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



**RENEWING FRIENDSHIPS** — Dean Register (left), pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, talks with friends Gary Shows (center), former pastor of Sylvarena Church, Wesson, and Alan Day, former pastor of First Church, McComb, during a break in the 1996 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention at the Superdome in New Orleans. Payne now serves as a director of missions in Alabama, while Day pastors First Church, Edmond, Okla. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Baptist Record taps commentary writers to begin duties on July 11

The **Baptist Record** will begin publishing the Sunday School lesson commentaries of three new writers beginning on July 11.

Ronald E. Bishop of Collins will write commentaries on the Baptist Sunday School Board's Bible Book series of lessons. Jim Phillips of Greenwood will comment on the Uniform series. Cynthia P. Douglas of Columbus will write comments on the Life and Work series.



**Bishop**



**Phillips**



**Douglas**

Bishop is a professor of philosophy and religion at Jones County Junior College (JCJC) in Ellisville. He holds the associate of arts degree from JCJC; the bachelor of arts degree from William Carey College; the master of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from New Orleans Seminary; and the master of arts from the University of Southern Mississippi. The Moselle native has written commentaries for youth teachers' quar-

terlies, as well as articles in **Biblical Illustrator** and book reviews for the **Theological Educator**. Bishop is an ordained minister and

a member of First Church, Collins, where he teaches Sunday School. He and his wife Deborah live in the Salem community and have two children.

Phillips has served as pastor of North Greenwood Church, Greenwood, for the past five years. He previously served Calvary Church, Tupelo, as associate pastor; Mt. Olive Church, Meridian, as pastor; Springhill Church, Hazlehurst, as pastor; and Chapel Hill Church as pastor. Phillips is a graduate of Mississippi College, and holds the master of divinity from New Orleans Seminary, as well as the doctor of ministry from Columbia Seminary in Decatur, Ga. He is a member of several civic organizations, and currently serves as vice chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Education Commission. Phillips and his wife Cynthia have three children.

Douglas is a member of and Sunday School teacher for First Church, Columbus, where her husband Bobby has served as pastor for nine years. She has written adult curricula for the Baptist Sunday School Board since 1974, and has led Sunday School conferences in local churches and at Gulfshore Assembly. The Virginia native is a graduate of the University of Richmond and holds the master of religious education degree from New Orleans Seminary. Douglas has served churches in Hixson, Tenn.; Memphis; and Scottsdale, Ariz., alongside her husband. They have three grown children.

The three writers will conclude their duties at the end of December.

## Annuity Board Requires Important Decisions

### URGENT!

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The decision-making process can be made easier by using a new educational tool, **LifePoints**. Meetings are scheduled throughout Mississippi to help plan participants select a new investment strategy. An Annuity Board representative will be there to demonstrate the use of **LifePoints** and answer questions. The dates and locations are listed.

For specific information about the meeting in your area, call your state annuity representative, **Robin Nichols**, at (601) 968-3800. You can also call the Annuity Board's toll-free number, 1-800-262-0511.



**ANNUITY BOARD**  
OF THE SOUTHERN  
BAPTIST CONVENTION

**Hattiesburg**  
July 8

**Marion**  
July 9

**Jackson**  
July 10

**Brookhaven**  
July 15

**Biloxi**  
July 22

**Starkville**  
August 19

**Tupelo**  
August 20

**Senatobia**  
August 21

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# Names in the News

**Bill Baker**, who for 22 years was pastor of First Church, Clinton, is joining the faculty and administration of William Carey College. Chancellor Jim Edwards announced that Baker, who recently began a Christian music ministry, has been appointed as director of Church Relations at William Carey College on the Coast, and



Baker

as a distinguished lecturer of biblical studies.

**Martha Ann Powell** of Liberty was elected president of the New Orleans Seminary's Foundation Board at the Foundation Board's recent meeting in New Orleans. The seminary's Foundation Board consists of nearly 100 pastors and lay people who are instrumental in providing financial support for New Orleans Seminary.

**Estelle Wood Nazary**, wife of Jack Nazary, pastor of West Carthage Baptist Mission, died

June 1 at her home in Carthage. Other survivors include a daughter, Shirley Clanton of Senatobia; granddaughter, Cindy Buckley of Southaven; sisters, Ethel Copeland of Jackson, Mary Atwood of Brookhaven, Nell Meriwether of Baton Rouge, La., and Bonnie Jones of Wiggins; and one brother, Prentiss Wood of Monroe, La.

**Allen Ashley**, 92, of Louisville, died June 2. Services were held June 4 at First Church, Louisville. He was a native of Hinds County. Ashley, a retired employee of the Mississippi Bap-

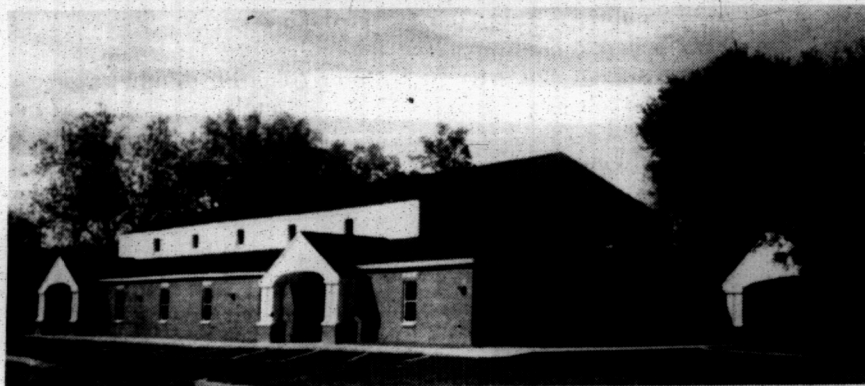
tist Convention Board, worked at Kittiwake Baptist Assembly in Pass Christian. Survivors include a son, Joe Allen Ashley, Colorado

Springs, Colo.; two daughters, Gracie Ochsenknecht, Marietta, Ga., and Sue Horton, Louisville; three brothers; and a sister.



**Wayne and Tillie Gullett** were honored by the Calhoun Association Pastors and Wives on May 13 for their dedication and service to the association. He has been director of missions since 1985 and she is active in associational work. Pictured, from left, are Chuck Shumaker, secretary of the Pastor's Conference, Max Price, vice president, Tillie and Wayne Gullett, and Danny Spratlin, president.

## Just for the Record



**Raymond Church, Raymond**, held Open House on April 28 for its Christian Life Center. Building committee members were Troy Henderson, chairman; Henry Riser; Erle Breeden; Lillian Boteler; Peggy Rice; Cory Tabb; and Mike Nail. Tommy A. Jarrett is pastor.

**William Carey College (WCC) Department of Music** will sponsor a Summer Guitar Workshop June 30-July 3 on the Hattiesburg campus. As part of the workshop, four recitals will be held which include: Miroslav Loncar, instructor of guitar at WCC, June 30, 8 p.m.; Zeke Guin, the first graduate of the Music Department's guitar program, July 1, 8 p.m.; a recital of compositions by Loncar, July 2, 8 p.m.; and participants of the guitar workshop, July 3, 4 p.m. For more information call (601) 582-6175.

**The Colorado Longs Peak Association** is accepting resumes and recommendations for the position of director of missions through Aug. 15. Send to: Longs Peak Association, Search Committee, 3251 West 22nd Street, Greeley, CO 80631.

**Yellow Leaf Church, Oxford**, is seeking a part-time youth minister. Marty Evans Jr. is pastor. The address is 36 Highway 334, Oxford, MS 38655, or call (601) 236-1884 (daytime), 234-5116 (evening).

**The Mississippi Baptist Chaplains Association**, in retreat at Gulfshore Assembly, May 10-11, heard C. Welton Gaddy share his experience with depression. Gaddy is pastor of Northminister



Gaddy

wood will bring the special music. Dinner will be served at noon. Henry Bennett, pastor, who has read the Bible 100 times, will be the speaker.

**First Church, Pontotoc**, concludes its six-month sesquicentennial celebration in July. The 150th Eye Witness presentation will be July 7 in the 10:40 a.m. service. Harpist Greg Buchanan will be in concert for the 7 p.m. service. On July 28, Jimmy Porter, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, will be the guest speaker in the 10:40 a.m. service. Milfred Valentine, dean of music at William Carey College, will lead the music. The day will also be recognized as Former Member Day with the placing of a new time capsule. Dinner on the grounds will follow the morning worship hour. W.H. Sims III is pastor.

**Woolmarket Church, Biloxi**, will hold a "Fifth Sunday" celebration service on June 30. The morning worship service will be followed by a covered dish dinner on the grounds. An afternoon concert by the Singing Emmanuels of Georgia will begin at 1:30 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Paul Crowley is pastor.

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## Homecomings

**Beulah, Inverness:** June 30; congregational singing, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch, noon; Gospel Messengers, Pearl, guest singers, 1 p.m.

**Zion Hill (Copiah):** June 30; homecoming and note burning; worship service, 10:45 a.m., followed by dinner in fellowship hall; Daryl Oster, pastor.

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## Uniform Do right



By David Mitchell  
James 4

People who know what they want often have as their motto, "It's my way... or the wrong way." Speaking to Christians about their relationship to God, James says there are two ways to live your life. There is God's way and the wrong way. Bob Dylan, in a popular song years ago, said, "You gotta serve somebody; It may be the devil or it may be the Lord but you're gonna have to serve somebody." Serving God and God alone with no mixture of self is God's way to live the Christian life.

**Me versus God (vv. 1-6).** James indicated that many people have chosen to serve self rather than God. Serving self allows a spirit of lust, desire, and selfishness, which cause quarrels and conflicts. He accused his audience of being wrongly motivated, living immoral lifestyles and having materialistic desires. Rather than focusing upon the things of God they had chosen to focus on pleasing self. God was not even approached for the necessities of life.

Christians are to pray for the things they need, not asking "wrongly, to spend it on" our own "passions" (v. 3). Throughout his letter, James normally addressed this congregation as "beloved brethren." Here, however, he addressed them as "adulteresses," which, translated literally, means "unfaithful creatures." Whoever becomes a friend of the world and is fond of worldly objects becomes an enemy of God.

James referred to Proverbs 3:34 as he noted, "God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble." Grace is not offered to those who have a prideful opinion of themselves, which may arise because of family heritage, material possession, or even religious status. Pride blocks the door to God because those who are prideful often feel no need to ask God for the necessities of life. God hears and answers the humble because of his great love and because the humble possess an awareness of a need for God's grace.

**Me and God (vv. 7-10).** Christians are to submit themselves to God, and in so doing, resist the devil. The promise of Scripture is that those who resist the devil will find that Satan will "flee from" them.

Drawing to God involves a commitment of the will. It expresses a desire to have our sins removed and a submissive, humble spirit. Without using the word "repentance," James drew a clear road map instructing the disciple to a heart and life of repentance. He describes real repentance as being miserable about sin, mourning over trespasses, weeping, and having a gloomy countenance because of failure to obey God (v. 9). Christians are not to go merrily without a care into the world, sinning at will with the mindset "God's grace is sufficient to cover all sins." Rather, they are to humble themselves in the presence of the Lord, drawing near to him and resisting evil.

**God's will and me (vv. 13-17).** Here is an idea that the contemporaries of James would have easily understood. Barclay says this is the picture of a man looking at a map: "He points at a certain spot on it, and says, 'Here is a new city where there are great trade chances. I will go there; I'll get in on the ground floor; I'll trade for a year or so; I'll make my fortune and come back rich.'" James says no one has the right to make confident plans for the future. The emphasis here is twofold: 1) as Proverbs 27:1 states, "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth"; 2) those who trust God are not to depend upon worldly treasures for the future. All material possessions will be burned and — for eternity — will be meaningless.

James was not teaching Christians **not** to make plans. Rather, he was saying that we should depend completely upon God. The point is: do not be prideful and boast about the future. Instead, say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and we shall do this or that" (v. 15). Plans for the future should only be made with absolute dependence upon God and his leadership.

Mitchell is pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson.

## Bible Book Promise of judgment



By Clayton Littlejohn  
Malachi 2, 4

God's message of judgment and promise through Malachi teaches that God's people suffer when they cheat God, but that they will prosper when they trust him in all areas of life. This lesson will identify steps we can take to be more faithful stewards of God's blessings.

**God's messenger (3:1-4).** In verse 1, the word "behold" shows God's continued response to the people's question in 2:17. God speaks in verse 1, explaining that he will send a messenger to prepare the way. In ancient days, a messenger was sent into a city to announce that the king was coming so the people would have the opportunity to prepare for his arrival.

The messenger in this passage refers to the coming of the Lord Jesus as Israel's King and the messenger who would announce his coming — John the Baptist (Matt. 11:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 1:17, 76; 7:27). Between Malachi and Matthew there are 400 years of silence. God had nothing to say to his people, then suddenly or unexpectedly, John the Baptist appeared on the scene proclaiming that the King was coming and that the people needed to repent and prepare their hearts for his coming. As the messenger of the covenant, Jesus would be the perfect and eternal King who would mediate the perfect and eternal covenant with Israel (Jer. 31:31-34).

The irony of Jesus' coming is that Israel expected the new King to exalt them and punish their enemies, while in fact, Jesus would judge Israel first. His judgment would begin with the priests (v. 3) so that God's people could truly worship him in spirit and in truth (v. 4). Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that needs to be the proclamation coming from the mouth of his messengers today.

**Return to God and be blessed (3:7-12a).** The people of Malachi's day were repeating the sins "from the days of your father... mine ordinances," and just as their fathers lost everything and went into captivity, so would these people. If they would return to God by repentance, then God would return to them with blessings. The blessings would be material and spiritual and to reverse the curse the people had to stop robbing God of tithes and offerings (v. 8).

The word "rob" means "to despoil" (Prov. 22:23), and means the Israelites were stealing God's spoils on a continual basis. The word "tithe" means "tenth" and God in his wisdom asks his people to give a tenth of their income. By my giving a tenth of my income, I give as much as the millionaire who also gives his/her tenth. That allows us to remain equal. My dollar amount will be less than the millionaire's, yet I am equal because I also gave a tenth.

By the way, Leviticus 27:30 says the tithe is holy unto the Lord. God doesn't call many things in the Bible holy. To steal something that is holy is even worse than being a mere thief who is in prison today.

The temple had sections designated as the storehouse where food and grain were kept for the priests and poor. By stealing these stores, the people were affecting the ministry of the priests. Thus, the priests had to leave the ministry to get secular jobs in order to live. God promised to open the windows of heaven and pour out more blessings than they could imagine if the people would just trust him and prove him by giving their tithes. He would rebuke the devourer and bless their crops (income) so that all nations would call them blessed (v. 12). He still will today if we will prove him.

**The promise of Elijah (4:5-6).** Elijah was greatly respected among Jews — rightly so. Who better to announce the coming judgment of the Lord than Elijah? Some believe this announcement to also foretell John the Baptist, as it did in 3:1. That is probably true, in light of Matthew 17:11-13. Others believe Elijah is one of the two prophets mentioned in Revelation 11, proclaiming the judgment of God. Whichever it is, his purpose is to turn the people to God and both Elijah and John did that. Today, each Christian has that same responsibility and blessing.

Littlejohn is pastor of Ingram Church, Baldwin.

## Life and Work Be on mission



By Linda Donnell  
Romans 15

Someday someone will discover the cure for cancer. Suppose that person decides to keep the discovery to himself. "That's unthinkable!" you probably think. But it is really no more unthinkable than for a person who has found Christ to neglect to tell others the "good news of God's love." In the same way that the knowledge of a great healing inevitably makes a crusader, the knowledge of Christ as the answer to man's total need makes that person an evangelist.

I have often heard people remark, "Missions just isn't my thing." The truth of the matter is that to be a Christian means to be on mission.

**A call to mission (vv. 15-16).** Paul clearly felt his call to mission. He saw himself as the representative of Christ, carrying out a priestly and official role of bringing the world to Christ (v. 16). He was completely self-confident in exactly what the Lord had called him to do: serve as a minister of Christ to the Gentiles. He laid this call on the altar of service and was proud to be the servant of his Master. Can we say the same thing about our lives?

Look at your schedule and priorities. What are you doing for the mission of Christ?

God does not intend for all of us to be career missionaries, but he did command (not merely offer as an option) us to go into the world and win souls for Christ (Matt. 28:19). There are many ways to be missionaries beyond simply as a career. The volunteer opportunities available through the mission boards, state conventions, associations, and local churches could fill any calendar. We should never forget the witness opportunities through our daily contacts. The major point for us as Christians is to realize our call to mission and to be specifically alert to how God wants us to carry out that call.

**A call to work (vv. 17-19).** As we answer God's call to be on mission, we can be assured that he will work through us. Paul was plain in taking no personal credit for his mission work with the Gentiles. He gave all credit for accomplishment to Christ working through him. God simply needs a channel for his power. The channel of light is the light bulb. The channel of music is a voice or an instrument. Each of us can be the channel through which the grace of God is transmitted. "Ordinary people, claiming God's adequacy, can accomplish extraordinary things."

**A call to give (vv. 23-24).** Paul wanted to take the gospel on further into Spain. He appealed to the Romans to participate with him in these plans. We, too, as Christians today have the opportunity to participate through our offerings in carrying the gospel throughout the world: Cooperative Program, Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions, Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions, state missions offerings, as well as local church mission endeavors. In our materialistic society, we should ask, "How much have I invested in the mission of Christ?" Even in our church, we might need to ask, "How does our spending to carry the gospel of Christ compare to spending on personal comfort and beauty?"

A pastor was showing a visiting missionary around the church and pointed out the new stained glass window. When told how much it cost, the missionary quietly said, "Why, that's more than our total annual budget."

**A call to pray (vv. 30-32).** Paul begged the Roman believers to pray for him. He urged this by all that is sacred and valuable: "For the Lord Jesus Christ's sake" (v. 30). This might be said for us today as well: "If you have any regard to Jesus Christ and his cause, pray for mission efforts."

Many would contrast prayer with activity; but prayer must be the heart of missions. In the words of Rosaline Beck: "Whenever a soul is on fire with love and compassion for others, it is the result of a conscious union of the person with God through prayer." How does the length and earnestness of your prayers for lost souls compare to petitions for self?

God has not left us here to simply be saved and sanctified. Christians are called to mission: doing, giving, and praying.

Donnell is a member of First Church, Hattiesburg.



# Pro-gambling tide is turning, says Land of SBC resolution

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The recent bankruptcy of the world's largest casino under construction in New Orleans shows "the tide is beginning to turn" away from casual acceptance of gambling nationwide, Richard Land, president of the Christian Life Com-

mission (CLC), said during the June 11-13 SBC annual meeting in New Orleans.

Land said a resolution pledging Southern Baptist support for a national commission to study the impact of gambling on society shows Southern Baptists are

ready to take a more active stance in stopping gambling's almost unchecked recent growth.

"It seems as though every 50 years or so gambling raises its ugly head and people decide to allow it to flourish," Land said during a break in floor action at the convention. "People forget why every state constitution outlawed gambling until it is back in vogue, destroying lives."

The resolution was presented to the Convention by **Paul G. Jones**, executive director of the **Christian Action Commission** for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and a messenger of First Church, Clinton.

Gambling is "a terrible scourge in our nation, which destroys lives, families, and finances. There is nothing positive about gambling. Every part of it is negative and destructive," Land said.

Gambling is an addictive disease which often drives its victims to depression and suicide, Land said. In its basic form as state lotteries, it is "the most horrendous regressive form of taxation."

Studies show that more poor people living under the poverty level spend money gambling than middle- to upper-middle class people who could better afford it, Land said.

If the bill to create a national committee to study gambling is passed by Congress, Southern Baptists will have to watch closely as the president makes his appointments to such a committee, Land said.

"A good committee can really make some strides in determining the horrible impact gambling has on people's lives. But if the President appoints a committee comprised of members who profit from gambling in any way, we can expect only a whitewash," he said.

The CLC will closely watch the formation of the committee to ensure those whose livelihoods depend on gambling are not appointed, Land said.

## Mississippi's partners in missions post needs

### Venezuela

A construction team consisting of six to eight members is needed Jan. 10-19, 1997, to complete a church building in the poor area of Maracay, Venezuela. Windows, doors, bathroom fixtures, and a roof will be installed.

### Colorado

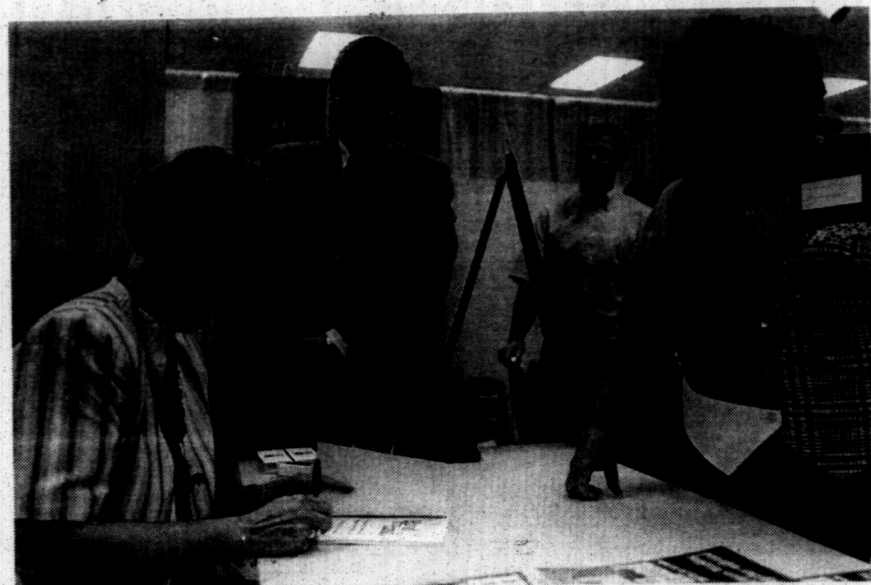
The following volunteer positions have been requested:

Hesperus Church	Music/Youth Leader
First Church, Cortez	Music/Youth/Education
Rico Mission	Pastor (housing & some salary)
Liberty Church, Flagler	Couple to pastor in Joe, Colo. (housing)
Flagler Christian Conference Center	Couple to direct camp & do maintenance
Estes Park Church	Music/Education/Youth Director
Emmanuel Church, Grand	Couple to conduct Bible studies
Colbran Mission	Mission Pastor
First Southern Church, Yuma	Minister of Education
Stratton Church, Stratton	Associate Pastor
Denver Baptist Center	Director
Erie Church, Erie	Asst. Pastor for summer
Southborough Church, Colorado Springs	Church Planter
Countryside Church, Fountain	Church Planter
Falcon Church, Colorado Springs	Church Planter
Manitou Springs	Church Planter
Cimarron Hills	Church Planter
Cheyenne Meadows, Springs	Church Planter
Field of Apartments, Colorado Springs	Ministry Director
Emmanuel Church, Sterling	Associate Pastor

For more information on these and other partnership volunteer projects, contact the Partnership Missions Office, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



**CATCHING UP** — Melba Brown (left) of Mobile, Ala., shares memories with longtime friends Donna (center) and Milton Wheeler at the William Carey College exhibit at the 1996 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans. Brown's husband Charles is the pastor of Government Street Church in Mobile. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



## Lewis signs book

NEW ORLEANS — Betty Jo Lewis (left) autographs her book **Hand in Hand** for **Joan Bragg** (right) of Mississippi. The book was printed by Woman's Missionary Union as a focus book this year. Looking on is Lewis Husband Larry, Home Mission Board president. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*LifeAnswers* is on temporary hiatus. The column will return to its regular weekly schedule in late July.

Send your counseling questions to *LifeAnswers* c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

## NOBTS trustees hear report of school's community efforts

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Trustees of New Orleans Seminary, at a full board meeting June 13 in New Orleans, learned of 162 professions of faith resulting from student evangelism efforts.

Called to order by new chairman Bill Hamm, a retired layman from Shreveport, La., trustees heard a report concerning a new week-long summer school class started on the first day of the SBC's "Crossover New Orleans" evangelistic thrust.

Jerry Norman Barlow, a new faculty member, was elected associate professor of communication. He will be the fifth full-time teacher, along with several con-

tract teachers, in the school of Christian training.

Barlow, pastor of First Church, Franklinton, La., since 1981, completed two degrees at New Orleans Seminary, the master of divinity in 1978 and the doctor of theology in 1982. Prior to his call to ministry, Barlow, 52, completed a degree in chemistry at William Carey College, Hattiesburg. During his seminary years, he was pastor of two Mississippi Baptist churches, Sylvaena in Wesson and Crystal Springs in Tylertown.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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LBBXQH SB YPOB DIMXCXBZ SFIM LFIEL XQ FAB-  
SXQH JYB JMIJY JYMFIHY JYB LDXMXJ IQJF IQCBX-  
HQBZ EFOB FC JYB AMBJYMBQ, LBB JYPJ SB EFOB  
FQB PQFJYBM KXJY P DIMB YBPMJ CBMOBQJES:

CXMLJ DBJBM FQB: JKBQJS-JKF

This week's clue: Y equals H.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Ezekiel Three: Twelve.

Baptist Record

June

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